

First to Fire Newsletter



Avenger fire units from 2-44 ADA, 101st Airborne (Airmobile) Division, participated in the raid that bagged Saddam Hussein's sons.

Avenger Fire Units Engaged in Raid That Killed Saddam's Sons

Avenger fire units participated along with other elements of the 101st Airborne Division in the raid that killed Qusay and Uday Hussein, the sons of the toppled Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein. Avenger crewmen from the 2-44 ADA engaged with their MP3 Machine Guns during the assault on the house where the two brothers were hiding. Soldiers from the "Strike Fear" battalion also planned, prepared and executed a rigorous training cycle for the newly formed Joint Iraqi Security Company, which is made up of recruits drawn from different Iraqi ethnic and tribal groups. Other divisional ADA units continue to perform similar security missions throughout Iraq.

Pentagon Releases Report on Chinese Military Power

According to "Chinese Military Power 2003," just released by the Department of Defense, China is acquiring and deploying missiles much faster than the United States thought, perhaps to prepare for a showdown with Taiwan and to prevent U.S. forces from coming to Taiwan's assistance. The full report is online in PDF format at <http://www.defenselink.mil/pubs/20030730chinaex.pdf>.

Fort Bliss Tests Patriot Light

Soldiers from Echo Battery, 3-2 ADA, and Raytheon representatives recently tested "Patriot Light," the newest configuration of the Patriot missile. Among complex modifications, the most visible changes include splitting the equipment on the 5-ton truck into separate parts and making them lighter and smaller while adding newer technology, such as fiber optics, color displays and flat panels that show real-time video of the battlefield.

MEADS Gets DAB Green Light

The Defense Acquisition Board (DAB) on July 29 approved plans for the joint international Medium Extended Air Defense System (MEADS) program. The decision moves MEADS—the eventual replacement for the Patriot missile system—into the design and development phase with work scheduled to begin in 2004 and continue through 2011. The work will be performed by MEADS International, a consortium operating under a "shared work" agreement that combines the expertise of Lockheed

Martin, DaimlerChrysler Aerospace and Alenia Marconi Systems. Like Patriot, MEADS will protect maneuver forces and critical installations against tactical ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, unmanned aerial vehicles, and fixed and rotary wing aircraft, but will feature increased strategic transportability for overseas deployments and increased tactical mobility to enable rapid deployment within the forward combat zone. "MEADS is a totally new system—not just an improved Patriot PAC-3 system," said Lockheed Martin's vice president for Air and Missile Defense Systems, Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Donald Lionetti, a former Chief of Air Defense Artillery.

Missile Defense Agency Suspends Space-Based Boost Phase Intercept Program

The Missile Defense Agency has temporarily suspended plans to move forward with a space-based variant of the kinetic energy boost phase intercept capability, but the ground-based program is still on track. Industry officials quoted by *Defense Daily* blamed the suspension on funding constraints. Missile Defense Agency officials declined to comment, but said any decision to cancel the controversial space-based program would be made by the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

First Annual Joint Cruise Missile Defense Conference and Exhibition

The Office, Secretary of Defense, will sponsor the First Annual Joint Cruise Missile Defense Conference and Exhibition Nov. 17- 20, 2003, at the Hilton Sandestin Beach Resort in Destin, Fla. The focus of the Cruise Missile Defense Conference will be on cruise missile defense acquisition, training, exercises, simulation, and warfighter support. The conference will serve as a forum to exchange thoughts and ideas between government and Industry to enhance land attack cruise missile defense capabilities. The conference will address current and near term capabilities and threats. Exhibitors will also have the opportunity to display information on operations or systems during the conference.

A \$150 fee is due on November 17 during registration and is payable by cash or check only. If you RSVP after 1 October, a late fee of \$250 will be assessed. You may register online at the conference website (<http://www.jcmd.jte.osd.mil/Conference.htm>) no later than Oct. 1, 2003, or contact LTC Christine Markwardt at (850) 882-4661, ext 132 (DSN 872), or e-mail her at christine.markwardt@eglin.af.mil, or contact Ms. Jan Guinn at (850) 882-4661, ext. 101 (DSN 872), or e-mail her at lynda.guinn@eglin.af.mil. Rooms are reserved for conference attendees and exhibitors at the Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort. The hotel address is 4000 Sandestin Boulevard South, Destin, FL 32550, only 35 minutes from Eglin Air Force Base/Fort Walton Beach Airport.

CALL Slides Address Iraqi Freedom Ground-to-Air Friendly Fire Incidents

While the U.S. Army has yet to release its report on Operation Iraqi Freedom friendly fire incidents involving U.S. Patriot batteries, the Army Center for Lessons Learned has produced a briefing titled "Combat Identification Insights from Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi" that incorporates the following bullets:

Ground to Air CID Insights

- The low reliability of positive electronic means of identification continues to mandate the training and use of procedural methods of identification.
- Exercising the Joint Identification Authority from the Area Air Defense Commander down to the lowest fight element is critical.
- Every effort must be made to avoid autonomous fire units. Robust communications are key to CID.
- Tactical Control Officers must continuously maintain situational awareness of all friendly and enemy activity.

- Tactical Control Officers must continuously work to resolve unknown tracks on their scopes.
- Joint datalink architectures must be designed to support identification and engagement authority functions.

Ground to Air

- Emphasize identification of friend or foe (IFF) procedures.
- Develop and standardize battlefield identification systems.
- Ensure positive target identification before engagement down to the lowest level.

Look for the briefing at http://call.army.mil/products/fratricide/docs/Insights_files/frame.htm.

Iran Deploys Shihab-3

According to press reports, U.S. officials have confirmed claims by Iran that its military has deployed the new Shihab-3 long-range missile with its Islamic shock troops for the first time. Based on the design of the North Korean Nodong missile, the Shihab-3 ballistic missile is a mobile, medium-range missile that travels up to 930 miles. It is believed capable of carrying a 2,200-pound warhead. The missile is capable of hitting Israel, Iraq, Turkey, Russia and parts of southern Europe.

Pentagon Might Combine High-Altitude Airship With Relay Mirror System

Jane's Defense Weekly reported that the Defense Department might combine the Aerospace Relay Mirror System and the High Altitude Airship in an effort to increase the range of military laser systems. Dangling the mirror system below the airship might allow ground-based lasers, such as the Army's Mobile Tactical High-Energy Laser, to track targets beyond direct line of sight. The Missile Defense Agency plans to begin testing the airship in 2006.

Kuwait Prepares New PAC-2 Order

Kuwait has relayed its intention to order improved PAC-2 missiles to replenish its stock of interceptors in wake of the U.S.-led war in Iraq. Kuwaiti Patriot batteries engaged and destroyed two Iraqi missiles during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Missile Defense Strategy Not Feasible Against Potential Threats

Intercepting ascending missiles would not be an effective approach for defending the United States against missile attacks, according to a study released by the American Physical Society. You can read "Report of the American Physical Society Study Group on Boost-Phase Intercept Systems for National Missile Defense" at http://www.aps.org/public_affairs/popa/reports/nmd03.html.

Acquisition Plan Outlined For MDA's Miniature Kill Vehicle Effort

Defense Daily reported the Missile Defense Agency and Army have decided to pick one contractor to develop miniature kill vehicles that could be incorporated into future missile defense systems. The agency will award three concept definition contracts and then select one contractor for the development phase. A Raytheon-Science Applications International Corp. team, a Lockheed Martin team and Schafer have been developing system designs. The concept calls for multiple small kill vehicles housed within one carrier vehicle to be used against ballistic missiles in the midcourse stage of flight.

Taiwan Requests PAC-3 Missile Defense Batteries

Taiwanese officials have formally requested permission to purchase three PAC 3 missile defense batteries from the United States. The United States is reviewing the request and is expected to recommend that Congress approve the sale.

